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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference PCT-E2195	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)
International application No. PCT/KR2003/000023	International filing date (day/month/year) 07 JANUARY 2003 (07.01.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 30 JULY 2002 (30.07.2002)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC7 C07C 51/255		
Applicant SK CHEMICALS CO., LTD. et al		

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 3 sheets, including this cover sheet.

This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of _____ sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I Basis of the report
- II Priority
- III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV Lack of unity of invention
- V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI Certain documents cited
- VII Certain defects in the international application
- VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 13 FEBRUARY 2004 (13.02.2004)	Date of completion of this report 16 NOVEMBER 2004 (16.11.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/KR  Korean Intellectual Property Office 920 Dunsan-dong, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140	Authorized officer LEE, Choong Jae Telephone No. 82-42-481-5536

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/KR2003/000023

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

 the international application as originally filed the description:pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____ the claims:pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____ the drawings:pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____ the sequence listing part of the description:pages _____, as originally filed
pages _____, filed with the demand
pages _____, filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is

 the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)). the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)). the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

 contained in the international application in written form. filed together with the international application in computer readable form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form. furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished. The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of: the description, pages _____ the claims, Nos. _____ the drawings, sheet _____5. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this opinion as "originally filed," and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item I and annexed to this report.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION

International application No.

PCT/KR2003/000023

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-7	YES
	Claims	None	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-7	YES
	Claims	None	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-7	YES
	Claims	None	NO

2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: US 5004830 A

D2: US 4816601 A

2. Novelty and Inventive Step

The present invention(claims 1-7) relates to a method for producing trimellitic acid through oxidation of pseudocumene in an acetic acid solvent and in the presence of a catalytic system containing at least one selected from the group consisting of cobalt, manganese, zirconium and bromine. The oxidation comprises three steps, a) first oxidation b) second oxidation and c) completing oxidation without the addition of catalysts.

Both of D1 and D2 disclose a process for producing trimellitic acid from pseudocumene by two stage or multi-stage oxidation in the same catalytic system as the present invention.

The problem to be solved by the present invention is obtaining the trimellitic acid in high purity, which is the same as that by the prior art. However, the solutions to the problem are different each other. The present invention increases the purity of the trimellitic acid by adding a third step for completing oxidation without the addition of catalysts and at a higher temperature and pressure than the second oxidation step. On the other hand, D1 increases the purity of the trimellitic acid by oxidation at a low temperature, at a high pressure and a high oxygen partial pressure, D2 by recycling the catalysts by oxalate precipitation of the catalyst in a continuous process. Furthermore, The purity of the trimellitic acid in the present invention is higher than in D1, D2.

Therefore, the present invention is considered to be novel and to involve an inventive step under PCT Article 33(2)-33(3).

3. Industrial Applicability

The subject matter of claims 1-7 is considered to be industrially applicable under PCT Article 33(4).